

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 4541

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 4521

USIAC

STATE FOR ARA

E.O. 11652: NA

REF: USIA 28107

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHLAUDEMANN'S PRESS COVERAGE BEGAN UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT TONCONTIN AIRPORT ON SEPTEMBER 17 WHERE HE WAS PROMPTLY INTERVIEWED BY SEVERAL HONDURAN PRESS AND RADIO REPORTERS.

2. AFTER MEETING WITH HONDURAN CHIEF OF STATE, GENERAL JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR AND FOREIGN MINISTER ROBERT PALMA GALVEZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHLAUDEMANN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT EVENING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL FIVE DAILY NEWSPAPERS, THE TWO PRINCIPAL NATIONAL RADIO NETWORKS, AND TV-3'S "TELEPRENSA."

3. THE ENTIRE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS BROADCAST LIVE ON HONDURAN NATIONAL NETWORK WITH EDITED POSITIONS REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT EVENING AS WELL AS DURING THE SATURDAY MORNING NEWSCAST (SEPTEMBER 18).

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4. TV-3'S "TELEPRENSA" DEDICATED HALF OF ITS THIRTY MINUTES NEWSCAST TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHLAUDEMAN'S NEWS CONFERENCE ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 17.

5. PRESS COVERAGE ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 18) WAS AS FAVORABLE AS IT WAS VOLUMINOUS. CONSERVATIVE LA PRENSA CARRIED A FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEETING WITH CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR AND BANNER HEADLINES STATING "HARRY SCHLAUDEMAN RECOMMENDS: IN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WE MUST DEPART FROM THE TRADITIONAL AND RESTRICTED HEMISPHERIC SYSTEMS." THE CONSERVATIVE PAPER OUTLINED THE ENTIRE PRESS CONFERENCE COVERING THE POINTS DISCUSSED ON PREFERENTIAL TRADE TREATMENT FOR LATIN AMERICA; THE HONDURAN BEEF PROBLEM; CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET; AND THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOCIATION.

6. LIBERAL TIEMPO ON SEPTEMBER 18 HAD BANNER HEADLINES: "THE UNITED STATES ECPRESSES DESIRES TO BETTER COMMERCIAL RELATIONS." UNDER HEADLINES APPEARED A PHOTOGRAPH OF AMBASSADOR SCHLAUDEMAN VISITING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ROBERTO PALMA. THE STORY ON PAGE TWO WAS DEDICATED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO THE PRESENT HONDURAN BEEF CRISIS AS AFFECTED BY THE U.S. MEAT IMPORTATION QUOTA.

7. OPPORTUNIST EL DIA RAN AN OUTLINE OF PRESS CONFERENCE UNDER HEADLINE "GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE U.S. CONDEMN CORRUPTION AND BRIBES."

8. CONSERVATIVE LA NOTICA RAN STORY ON OP-ED PAGE UNDER HEADLINE, "U.S. IN FAVOR OF STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH CENTRAL AMERICA." SUBHEADLINE READ -" ACCORDING TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHLAUDEMAN, HIS COUNTRY WILL DEVELOP NEW QUOTAS FOR MEAT IMPORTATION NEXT YEAR."
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